

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/660,403

Examiner

Stefan Stoynov

Applicant(s)

NATU ET AL.

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 09/10/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Joni D. Stutman-Horn (Reg. No. 42,173) on 02/14/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend the specification as follows:

Page 5, paragraph 0012, line 9, before the word "entitled", replace the number "10/---,---," with -- 10/395,729, --.

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 8,

Line 1, replace the phrase "computer accessible medium" with -- machine readable medium --.

Line 2, after the word "having", insert -- stored thereon --.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Cepulis, U.S. Patent No. 6,961,791, teaches a centralized, integrated configuration process for configuring add-in cards and devices (column 1, lines 18-21) where the operator can configure the computer system and the option devices from a single software control system (column 2, lines 65-67). In addition, Cepulis teaches a ROM-based setup utility (RBSU) providing a centralized mechanism to permit entry into an option device's configurations routines (column 4, lines 38-40, FIG. 2). However, Cepulis does not teach determining whether the peripheral device has a callable interface for a corresponding configuration utility, the user interface further notifying the user of configuration possibilities for configurable devices not having a callable interface. Nor does Cepulis teach the user interface determines whether a configurable peripheral device has a callable interface as required by the claims.

Wu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,513,114, teaches a system and methods for providing selectable initialization sequences for computer systems and servers (column 1, lines 7-10). In addition, Wu teaches using a user interface for selecting different peripheral devices as well as the current initialization sequence and reference for the devices coupled to the system (column 5, lines 37-47). Wu also teaches storing the initialization information of a controller (peripheral) in an option ROM (column 5, lines 61-63, column 6, lines 59-61). However, Wu does not teach determining whether the peripheral device has a callable interface for a corresponding configuration utility, the user interface further notifying the user of configuration possibilities for configurable devices not having a callable interface. Nor does Wu teach the user interface determines whether a configurable peripheral device has a callable interface as required by the claims.

Mahmoud U.S. Patent No. 6,971,003, teaches methods and structures for processing code associated with option ROM BIOS images (column 1, lines 8-10) used for reducing compatibility issues between system BIOS of different computer systems (column 2, lines 14-16). However, Mahmoud does not teach providing a user interface which allows a user to select configuration of a device with a callable interface. Nor does Mahmoud teach wherein the user interface identifies configurable peripheral devices connected to the processor, determines whether a configurable peripheral device has a callable interface, and displays a menu on the display means as required by the claims.

Applicant's admitted prior art teaches accessing different configuration utilities for different peripherals using unique key sequence (page 3, paragraph 0004).

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest individually or in combination the steps of:

“determining whether the peripheral device has a callable interface for a corresponding configuration utility;

providing a user interface which allows to select configuration of a device with a callable interface, the user interface further notifying the user of configuration possibilities for configurable devices not having a callable interface”.

Nor does the prior art of record teach or suggest individually or in combination the steps of:

“wherein the user interface identifies configurable peripheral devices connected to the processor, determines whether a configurable peripheral device has a callable interface, and displays a menu on the display means”.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefan Stoynov whose telephone number is (571) 272-4236. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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